SPARK GAP

Vol. 42, Issue 10, October 2025 ***MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities***

On Our MARC:

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club will have it's regular monthly meeting this Saturday morning at 8am in the Johnson County REMC Community Room 750 International Drive Franklin, Indiana. Our speaker for the meeting will be Art, KB9CHR.

Jacki, KI6QOG will be the net control station for this years Goblin Patrol. This year as in past years amateur radio operators will be mobile and stationed at bridge over passes to observe that no mischief takes place such as someone throwing objects on the highway below. MARC has been doing this operation annually in conjunction with the Johnson County Sheriff Department. Jacki will have more information this activity at this months meeting.

Hope to see you all at the meeting Saturday morning. Happy Fall everyone!

---- Spark Gap Ed. Bob N9SIU

CLUB DUES FOR 2025 - 2026

It is that time of year for your membership dues for the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club. The annual membership dues is $25.00 per year and has not changed from last year.

This also a good time to update any of your information for club records such as license upgrade, change of address, contact information or call sign.

This is also a good opportunity for new amateurs to join our club and join in our club activities for 2025.

Please see Jacki Frederick, KI6QOG M.A.R.C. Treasurer

October Birthdays

KB9JMU - Jim Adams
KC9NJM - Bob Jones
KD9FBC - Wilson Low
K0CMD - David Nienhauser
N9KTP - Katie Palmer
KM9S - Darrell Sego
KD9TIP - Jemery Jukes
WB9FIK - Bill Baldwin
KE9BJE - Michael Deak
W9RTV - Robert Vanat

Jim, KD9WVD Pumpkin Carving

Weather Ops-ervations

by KC9NJM

With the prolonged stretch of above normal temperatures and the late arrival of cooler weather, its hard to say exactly when Indiana's winter experience will begin in 2025-26. There are some indications that point to a colder and wetter winter than in the past few years, but at this point nothing is a given. That being said, it is time to start thinking about our readiness for the coming of the more inclement conditions of cold, snow, sleet, and icing.

NWS Indy and the State of Indiana have designated the week of November 9-15 as Winter Weather Preparedness Week. While the exact details of this year's programming have not yet been published, the weather service traditionally highlights a specific topic each day on its website, www.nws.gov/ind. In past years those topics have included winter threats, indoor and outdoor safety considerations, road hazards, NWS winter services, and more.

Locally, we have a wealth of weather resources that we can turn to for winter forecasts, but none is more important than the NWS Indy site. In addition, the Weather Prediction Center webpage, www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/winter_wx.shtml, is a great site for probabilistic and long-range forecasting of winter weather conditions across the country. There you can also find reviews of significant weather events, snow fall accumulations, windchill charts and other helpful resources.

Just as we do in the spring when we prepare for severe weather, we need to ready ourselves for the hazards of winter weather. Our cars need to be stocked and ready with the items we would need if stranded on the road. Our homes need to be stocked with the supplies that would be needed for prolonged power outages or days of being homebound. And for all of us in the amateur radio community, its time to double-check our "go kits." Are the radios ready, the batteries charged, antenna's packed, and winter-weather supplies at hand? Remember… A call for our services could come just as easily in the winter months as in the spring and summer!

Sources: NWS Indy, NOAA/NWS

ARRL Grassroots Campaign

by Rusty, N9LLP

> The ARRL has launched a nationwide grassroots campaign aimed at securing the passage of federal legislation that would grant Amateur Radio Operators the same rights to install antennas on their property as those enjoyed by users of TV antennas, wireless internet, and flagpoles. This legislation is called the **Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act.**

The campaign, announced in an ARRL Member Bulletin on September 17, 2025, follows the reintroduction of the *Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act* in February 2025 (see ARRL News 02/07/2025). The bipartisan bills – H.R.1094 in the House and S.459 in the Senate -- are designed to prevent restrictive homeowners' association (HOA) rules that currently prohibit or severely limit the installation of amateur radio antennas, even when such antennas are hidden in trees, placed in attics, mounted on vehicles, or look like flagpoles.

"This legislation is about restoring equal rights to licensed Amateur Radio operators," said ARRL President Rick Roderick. "These restrictions hinder not only the enjoyment of Amateur Radio, but also its vital role in emergency communication during disasters."

You can participate and send your letter through the following link.

https://www.arrl.org/current-legislation

The online campaign thru the ARRL will send a copy of the letter below, whether you are an ARRL member or not to your Representative or Senator in Washington. The ARRL will put your address in form letter and include your email for you to your elected US House Representative and US Senator directly. It is recommended that we use the ARRL form letter as they will **hand deliver the letter to the Representative and Senator directly**. This will ensure that your letter is received in a timely manner. Since September 11, 2001, **ALL MAIL** addressed to legislative offices is processed and screened for safety and security from general USPS mail and *CAN* be delayed arriving by weeks to their office.

The goal is to inundate Congress with as many letters (Your voice) as possible so we can impress upon them the importance of this matter to us in the Amateur Radio Community. Although participation is not required, ALL amateur radio operators are encouraged to participate for the benefit of all Amateur Radio Operators across the nation. This and similar legislation has been introduced many times since 2015 and has not been acted upon yet. If you wish to draft and submit a letter of your choice, you can send it directly to ARRL Headquarters. Please note on your envelope that it is for the "Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act."

You can participate and send your letter through the following link.

https://www.arrl.org/current-legislation

IF you have already submitted your letter, Thank You!

This letter will be sent to your senators and representative with your name and contact information.

The Honorable [The Name of your Representative or Senator]
U.S. House of Representatives/U.S. Senate
[Office Address]
Washington, D.C.

Re:**[H.R. 1094/S.459]**

Dear **Representative/Senator**

I am one of your constituents and I am an FCC licensed Amateur Radio Operator.

*I strongly support — and I write to ask you to support and co-sponsor **[H.R. 1094/S.459]** — legislation that is vital to the survival of Amateur Radio. Amateur Radio faces an existential threat as 80% of all new housing developments carry private land use restrictions that prohibit all Amateur Radio antennas, including many that are indistinguishable from satellite and broadcast antennas that are permitted by federal law as a matter of right.*

***[H.R. 1094/S.459]** would provide Radio Amateurs the freedom to operate their stations from their homes, a right effectively denied by private land use restrictions. The bill would accomplish this by extending the same federal protections to Amateur Radio operators as those currently enjoyed by homeowners who install TV antennas, satellite TV dishes, wireless internet antennas, and free-standing flagpoles.*

Amateur Radio operators have a 111+ year history of volunteer support to local governments, state governments and Federal agencies when communications and related expertise is needed at times of disasters and other emergencies. Amateur Radio also has, and continues to, serve as a gateway for the youth of America to enter the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math. It has been the foundation for the careers of a significant number of the leaders in American communications and technology. As an example, the first private satellite launched into space, Oscar 1, was designed and launched by Amateur Radio operators. Today almost every astronaut on the International Space Station (ISS) is licensed as an Amateur Radio operator. When in space they use some of their free time to talk with students across the world to interest them in space, technology, and related fields.

I request your support for, and co-sponsorship of, [H.R. 1094/S.459] to eliminate the threat to Amateur Radio. I would be honored to meet with you, or your staff, within the District to discuss my concerns or to have Amateur Radio's representatives meet with you in Washington.

Sincerely,

Highlights of the 2025 MARC Picnic

WC9G
TIB
Greenwood,IN

There are more pictures on the MARC website.

2025 Hamfests List

10/18/2025 - Shelbyville Tailgate

`Confirmed`

- Location: Shelbyville, IN
- Address: Shelby County Fairgrounds
- 500 Frank St
- Shelbyville, IN 46176
- Talk-In: 145.48- 88.5pl
- Website: https://brvars.com/

11/15-16/2025 - Ft Wayne Hamfest

- `Confirmed`

- Location: Fort Wayne, IN
- Address: Allen County War Memorial Coliseum
- 4000 Parnell Ave
- Fort Wayne, IN 46805
- Talk-In: 146.88-
- Website: http://www.acarts.com/hfmain.htm

11/29/2025 WVARA Turkeyfest

- Location: Brazil, IN
- Address: Clay County Fairgrounds
- 6550 N SR 59

- Brazil, IN
- Talk-In 146.685- 151.4PL
- Sponsor: Wabash Valley ARA
- Website: W9UUU.org

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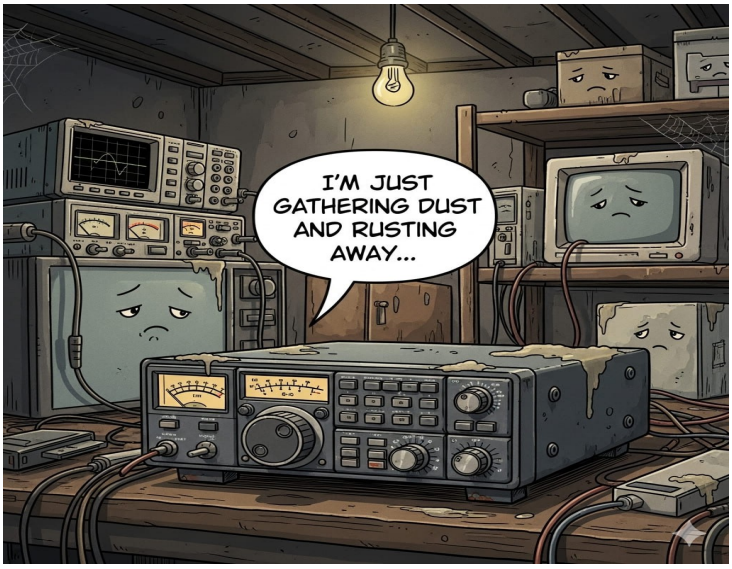
SKYWARN® Recognition Day History

The National Weather Service and ARRL created SKYWARN Recognition Day in 1999 to recognize the importance that amateur radio provides during severe weather. Many NWS offices acquire real-time weather information from amateur radio operators in the field. These operators, for example, may report the position of a tornado, the height of floodwaters, or damaging wind speeds during hurricanes. All of this information is critical to the mission of the NWS, which is to preserve life and property. The special day celebrates these contributions by amateur radio operators. You can find more information on the National Weather Service/amateur radio relationship.



Deep within a dusty garage, a chorus of forgotten electronics laments their fate.

"I'm just gathering dust and rusting away," sighs a once-proud ham radio transceiver, its dials and buttons longing for the touch of an operator.

Beside it, screens and circuit boards echo the sentiment, their once vibrant displays now dim with disuse. These aren't just machines; they're instruments of connection, designed to bridge distances and share stories across the air waves.

Their components, now slowly succumbing to rust, yearn for the thrill of being "alive on the air." This poignant scene serves as an important reminder to us all: our equipment, especially those tools that foster connection and hobby, thrive on engagement.

Let's ensure our beloved radios, and all our tools, are freed from their silent prisons and allowed to fulfill their purpose.

…... Thanks Chris – KQ9Y

MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY 8:00 AM of each month at the Johnson County REMC building 750 International Dr. Franklin, IN 46131
Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.
See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

MARC OFFICERS

President	Tim Aldridge	WC9G	president@midstatehams.org
Vice President	Jim Bryant	KD9WVD	vicepresident@midstatehams.org
Secretary	Jim Adams	KB9JMU	secretary@midstatehams.org
Treasurer	Jacki Frederick	KI6QOG	treasurer@midstatehams.org
Trustee	Chris Frederick	KQ9Y	trustee@midstatehams.org

Club Historian: Art Bleicher – WB9CHR wb9chr@aol.com
Club PIO: Rusty Kirts – N9LLP muse622@gmail.com

W9MID Repeaters: 146.835 – (PL 151.4) Official SkyWarn Repeater for Johnson County
443.525 + (PL 151.4) YEASU SYSTEM FUSION (C4FM)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES members and ALL RADIO AMATURES
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 PL Input Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club
857 Lionshead Lane
Greenwood, Indiana
46143
Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU
Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 3rd week of the month.

Thanks to Johnson Co. REMC for the use of their building for meetings and testing.

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